

REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 10-11 and 14-20 are cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 9 and 12 are amended. No new subject matter is added. Claims 1, 4-8, 9 and 12-13 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In keeping with this suggestion, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3. Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled. Claim 4 is amended for consistency with claim 1. Therefore, claims 1 and 4-8 are placed in condition for allowance.

Further in keeping with this suggestion, claim 9 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 10 and 11. Claim 9 is further amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3. Claims 10 and 11 are cancelled. Claim 12 is amended for consistency with claim 9. Therefore, claims 9 and 12-13 are placed in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4, 8-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,154 to Ohkawa (“Ohkawa”). The amendments to claims 1 and 9 render these rejections moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,817,562 Chang, et al. (“Chang”). Claim 11 is cancelled, and the amendment of claim 1 renders the rejection of claim 5 moot.

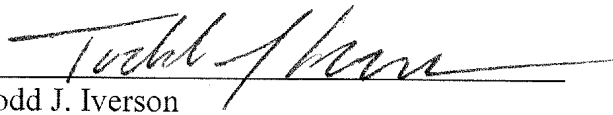
Claims 6-7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,649,503 Kim et al. (“Kim”). The amendments to claims 1 and 9 render these rejections moot.

Conclusion

For the reasons presented above, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is requested. Please telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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